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SATURDAY
APRIL 24, 1954

I went to the Embassy residence at nine o'clock this morning and met Messrs. Dulles, Spaak, Dillon, and de Staercke. The following is a rough summary of the conversation:

"Spaak said he had talked last night to Beyen and Bech, and they had agreed that the Benelux countries would next week propose a formula to the Interim Committee of the EDC designed to meet Guy Mollet's demands for democratic control over the European Army. De Staercke has had conversations on this subject with French Government officials which satisfy him that such an approach would be effective. Spaak will see Mollet this afternoon and attempt to arrive at an agreement satisfactory to him. He will also see Hallstein this afternoon and endeavor to secure the consent of the German Government to this procedure. He feels sure the Italians will interpose no objection.

"If all goes well, the Interim Committee of the EDC should be able to convene on Wednesday, April 28, and transact such business as will be necessary to enable Mollet to proceed to issue instructions for the convocation of his Socialist Party Congress.

"Secretary Dulles and Spaak exchanged views on a variety of considerations bearing upon EDC ratification. Spaak is strongly of the opinion that if a French Government showed proper determination to ratify the Treaty, adequate votes could be secured for it in the National Assembly. On the subject of Mendes-France and the possibility of his coming into power in the event the Laniel Cabinet falls, Spaak does not view such a prospect with great alarm as concerns the personality of Mendes-France. However, the circumstances that would attend any such change of Government would be of so grave a character as to create an atmosphere in which long and perhaps fatal delays would manifest themselves. Spaak does not feel that General de Gaulle would be called to office even if there were a disaster in Indochina - he estimates de Gaulle has already made so many serious political errors that he has spoiled what otherwise would have been almost a certainty.

"The Secretary explained to Spaak the gravity with which failure to act favorably on EDC would be viewed by the US Congress and public, citing particularly in this connection the changed attitude of Senator Russell. Spaak answered that he was fully aware of the situation, and of what might flow from a reappraisal of American foreign policy, but that the French Parliamentarians did not believe the US would fundamentally alter its present policy towards Europe. He thought this indifference and lack of realism on the part of French politicians constituted one of the chief reasons for their not having already voted upon the EDC Treaty. He said the small countries of Europe were acutely aware of the dangers inherent in the failure of French leadership. He also views with alarm the deterioration of Adenauer's power in Germany, which is being affected by the seeming failure of his European policy to have accomplished results of a positive nature for Germany.

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"The Secretary expressed his great confidence in Spaak's statesmanlike qualities and abilities, and said he hoped they would work closely together to achieve ends essential to the interests of both our countries. Spaak answered that he was most willing to do this and would devote himself in the next few days to trying to settle the Mollet affair.

"There was some discussion of the Saar, and Spaak spoke of the possible advisability of the Germans' making a public announcement, in case negotiations did not soon terminate successfully, stating their ultimate position with the safeguard that it would not pledge them for the future if the EDC Treaty were not ratified.

"Spaak thought in view of the present atmosphere in France and preoccupations over Indochina, it would be inadvisable at this time publicly to menace the French with any statement about the restoration of German sovereignty in the event EDC should fail.

"It was agreed that Ambassador de Staercke would continue to act for Spaak in close liaison with US officials in Paris."

The announcement was made yesterday of the extension of a $100,000,000 loan by the U. S. Government to the Coal and Steel Authority. This morning I had a telegram from Jean Monnet saying he was satisfied with the terms and was flying back next Monday night.

The news from Dien Bien Phu and its gallant garrison is bad, almost to the last degree.

Blair Clark came to see me before lunch. He thinks the situation at Dien Bien Phu is hopeless.

Walter Hallstein arrived this morning and came for lunch with me. He said the optimistic report given by Maurice Schumann to Ambassador Dillon regarding the private conversation between Hallstein and Schumann last Sunday, when they walked for hours in the park of Versailles, was unfounded. Neither in this conversation nor in Hallstein's ensuing talks with Berard had the differences of opinion between the French and Germans been substantially modified. Hallstein is thinking of preparing a new paper in connection with further negotiations. He says the Chancellor's position in Germany as regards the Saar settlement has

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deteriorated and [redacted] there is growing opposition to the demands made by the French.

Hallstein also says if the French Parliament does not soon act upon the EDC Treaty, public opinion in Fedrep will force a request by the Chancellor to separate the return of German sovereignty from the EDC Treaty. Hallstein is [redacted] worried over the consequences in Germany of the continued feebleness of French Governments.

This afternoon I took Carrie and Macgill for a short sight-seeing tour of Paris in the course of which we went to the Roman Arena and to the Sacré Coeur, at Montmarte.

I talked to Livie tonight. He has changed his plans and will accompany the Secretary to Geneva. This means he will not be able to preside over the Ambassadors' Conference in Copenhagen. I hope to see him when he passes through Paris later in the week on his way home.

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